



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **JUNE 17, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Frank Bacio
Barbara Bigby
Rita Hall
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Others Present

Alan P. Henry, Community Care Licensing
Terrence McClain, Community Care Licensing
Cesar Menchaca, Internal Services Department
Paul McIver, Department of Mental Health
Sergeant Pamela Christian, Sheriff's Department
Michael Varela, Probation Department
Howard Wong, Probation Department

Staff

Martha Arana, Commission Services Staff
Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services Staff
Janice Davis, Commission Services Staff

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Chair Montaña welcomed everyone in attendance and requested that Department Representatives introduce themselves.

Community Care Licensing Division:

Mr. Alan P. Henry gave the following report:

- Children Are Our Future (West Hills) was taken off their “Volunteer Compliance Plan” on May 27, 2009.
- Michelle Travis Group Home (41st Street) – 38, #3, closed as of 3/31/09.
- GLASS Wilton Group Home – 24, #3, closed as of 4/4/09.
- GLASS Summer’s Licata Youth Home – 25, #1, closed as of 4/4/09.
- GLASS Norris-Rocaberte Family Group Home – 24, #4, closed as of 4/4/09.
- GLASS Herbert Benton Youth Home – 24, #5, closed as of 4/4/09.
- GLASS Stephen Gabin Youth Home – 24, #2, closed as of 4/4/09.
- GLASS Charles Pierce Youth Home – 25, #2, closed as of 4/4/09.
- All future inquiries to the CCL should be addressed to Lenora Copeland, Regional Manager. She will be the new Representative for the Sybil Brand Commission Business Meetings.
- The CCL is requesting copies of the Commission’s Inspection Reports be mailed to them on a monthly basis.
- Terrence McClain introduced himself to the Commission and will periodically attend meetings on behalf of his agency.

Commissioner Bigby joined the meeting at 10:10.

Internal Services Department:

Mr. Cesar Menchaca, Manager, Maintenance Operations Division, reported that all repairs at the LAX Court were completed on June 15, 2009.

Department of Mental Health:

Mr. Paul McIver, District Chief, Countywide Children’s Case Management Programs, reported that Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed a 10% cut of all children’s services

programs (i.e. foster care, special education students and foster youth homes). The Legislative Conference Committee met last week and endorsed the Governor's recommendation; if implemented, this would have dire consequences for the residential care industry and many group homes will be forced to close. Group homes generally depend on private fundraising and donations and given the poor economic climate it's feared that there will be a dramatic decrease in donations. Mr. McIver urged everyone to contact legislative officials to address the issue of funding cuts for child care.

Probation Department:

Mr. Howard Wong, Director, Residential-Based Services, distributed the Probation Group Home Directory to the Commission and then gave the following report:

- Rosemary Children's Services is a DCFS Group Home and Probation does not have children placed in this home. Mr. Wong forwarded the Commission's Inspection Report to DCFS for further investigation.

Mr. Michael Varela, Director, Dorothy Kirby Center, reported that the Dorothy Kirby Center will compete in a Probation Camp "Academic Bowl" against Camp Rockey, Phoenix House and Camp Kilpatrick at the Gene Autry Heritage Center in Pasadena on June 26, 2009.

Sheriff's Department:

Sergeant Pamela Christian introduced herself to the Commission as the Department of Mental Health Liaison and reported the following:

- A gala event honoring female Sheriff's Dept. retirees titled "Ladies Night" is being planned for October 22, 2009.

Chair Montaña and the Commissioners thanked the various Department Representatives for their participation and reports.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 10, 2009, MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Bigby, and unanimously carried, the minutes of June 10, 2009, were approved with the following changes:

- On Page 2, under "Chair's Report", add Commissioner Moore as an attendant to the "Celebration 09" graduation event.
- On page 2, under "Chair's Report", change "...interviewed Commissioner Hall for the local news" to "...interviewed a graduating youth for the local news"...

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montaña reported on three (3) news articles:

- “Protecting Whistle-Blowers”, Daily Breeze, June 11, 2009, an editorial regarding how County workers should be protected when they report waste, fraud and abuse.
- “Children’s Services Oversight Lagging”, Los Angeles Times, June 11, 2009, regarding the Department of Children and Family Services’ decision to double their internal affairs workers after acknowledging a significant backlog of cases in which social workers were alleged to have made mistakes in reviewing the cases.
- “Agencies Fail To Share Their Data In Abuse Cases”, Los Angeles Times, June 14, 2009, regarding the lack of information sharing between County departments that may prevent child fatalities.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that the current balance of the Commission’s Charitable Fund is \$1,277.93.

CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIT REPORT

A scholarship application was received.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM JUNE 10, 2009, TO JUNE 16, 2009

West Covina Branch Court – Commissioner Hammargren

The facility was visited on June 8, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Sheriff’s office is outside of Security.

Marina Sheriff’s Station – Commissioners Moore and Hall

The facility was visited on June 11, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Need turnout boots for fire suppression.

San Gabriel Children’s Center (Enid) – 52, #3 – Commissioners Bacio and Montaña

The facility was visited on June 11, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Need to update two Needs & Services plans; linen closet door broken off; need FAX paper.

Children’s Homes of Southern California (Runneymede) – 9, #4 – Commissioner Bigby

The facility was visited on June 12, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

San Gabriel Children’s Center (RTI/Homerest) – 52, #5 – Commissioner Montaña

The facility was visited on June 12, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Need FAX paper.

Carson Sheriff’s Station – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña

The facility was visited on June 15, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall – Commissioners Bacio, Hammargren and Montaña

The facility was visited on June 15, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: No defibrillator available for training; medical records should be databased; no system for identifying clients.

Children Are Our Future (Saticoy) – 7, #5 – Commissioner Bigby

The facility was visited on June 16, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

Discussion of scholarship program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. in honor of the two journalists detained in South Korea.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Arana
Commission Services Division